



TO: Gas and Oil Pipeline Filers

FROM: Joanne Graziano, Chief, Bureau of Local Assessment

DATE : January 7, 2016

SUBJECT: **NOTIFICATION TO GAS AND OIL PIPELINE FILERS**

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Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, § 38A requires that a return be filed annually on or before January 31, 2016 to the Commissioner of Revenue for the determination of the value of petroleum and natural gas pipelines of 25 or more miles in length for fiscal year 2017.

As a result of a change in the taxation of utility corporations, any pipeline company doing business in Massachusetts that is a corporation, or a partnership, trust, limited liability company (LLC) or other non-corporate entity that files federally as a corporation, is subject to central valuation and local tax assessment on all pipeline and all machinery used to provide pipeline service. M.G.L. c. 59, § 38A; M.G.L. c. 59 § 18, First, Second, Fifth and Sixth; and M.G.L. c. 59, §5, Sixteenth, as amended by St. 2013, c. 46, §§ 29-31 and 84. Any pipeline company doing business in Massachusetts and filing federally as a partnership, trust, LLC, disregarded entity or other non-corporate entity is subject to central valuation and local tax assessment on all pipeline and all machinery and equipment used to provide pipeline service.

All companies with Massachusetts taxable personal property not used to provide pipeline service must report such property to local boards of assessors, in addition to the central valuation filing of taxable pipeline property with the Department of Revenue.

The return of personalty is as of January 1, 2016 for reporting entities and must include the following:

1. An inventory of pipeline situated in Massachusetts by community, that includes the cost, diameter, length and year of construction,
2. Gross original cost and net original cost,
3. Pipeline additions, replacements and deletions by community,
4. Pipeline capacity in gallons (if applicable),
5. Annual gallonage pumped through the pipeline (if applicable),
6. All machinery and equipment used to provide pipeline service (if applicable),



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DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES  
MA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Mark E. Nunnelly  
Commissioner of Revenue

Sean R. Cronin  
Senior Deputy Commissioner

7. FERC Form #2, *Annual Report of Major Natural Gas Companies* and any other report filed with the Commission that contains information pertaining to the pipeline system in Massachusetts by the filing date prescribed by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and
8. Construction Work in Progress (CWIP) must be separately listed by category. CWIP includes poles, wires, underground conduits and pipes in construction situated at a location for intended use when completed. It also includes machinery and equipment (where applicable) situated at a location for intended use even if not actually connected to the system, but capable of functioning as machinery or equipment if so connected.

For determining new tax base levy growth, all personalty that is listed as new for calendar year 2015 and all personal property that is new to a community, whether it is new, used or transferred from another community, must be identified and reported separately by community.

Submit this report electronically to [bladata@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:bladata@dor.state.ma.us) in Excel format and mail the signed original.

Original returns should be sent to Stephen Sullivan, Bureau of Local Assessment, at P.O. Box 9569, Boston, MA 02114-9569. If you have any questions, please email Stephen Sullivan at [sullivanst@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:sullivanst@dor.state.ma.us) or call 617-626-2393.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

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